

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. - 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A hand tool, comprising:

a curved trowel blade having a lower surface ~~defining~~ tangent to a plane;

a handle attached to the blade, the handle being curved in a plane perpendicular to the plane  
[[of]] tangent to the blade;

the handle including an outer surface defining a portion of a circular arc; and

wherein the handle terminates in a gripping section that intersects and extends beyond the  
plane [[of]] tangent to the blade.

21. (Currently Amended) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein the circular arc has a center  
below the plane [[of]] tangent to the blade.

22. (Previously Presented) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein the circular arc has a radius on  
the order of 3 to 4 inches.

23. (Previously Presented) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein the gripping section has a  
cross-sectional circumference in range from 3.5 to 5 inches.

24. (Previously Presented) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein the gripping section includes a  
slight taper along its length.

25. (Previously Presented) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein at least a portion of the  
gripping portion forms a flattened ellipsis in cross section.

26. - 29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein the handle includes a  
polymeric covering.

31. (Previously Presented) The hand tool of claim 20, wherein:  
the blade defines a primary line of attack; and  
the gripping section allows a user to hold the tool in a wrist-neutral position with a users  
forearm aligned along the line of attack.